

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02443 171836Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /057 W
-----180048 081834 /14
R 171336Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1358

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2443

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO NEW DELHI FROM CALCUTTA FEB 17, 1976
REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE
CALCUTTA 0396

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: COMMENTS BY INDIAN ARMY OFFICER ON ELECTIONS AND
POLITICAL SITUATION

1. REPORTED BELOW ARE COMMENTS BY A MIDDLE GRADE INDIAN
ARMY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO EASTERN COMMAND OPERATIONS SEC-
TION WHO CAME TO THE CONGEN FEBRUARY 16 TO SEE CONSULAR
OFFICER ABOUT A VISA FOR A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY. THE
OFFICER, WHO HAS SEEN CONSULAR OFFICER BEFORE IN CONNEC-
TION WITH VISA FOR ANOTHER MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY WHO IS
NOW IN THE US, VOLUNTEERED THESE COMMENTS.

2. SOURCE SAID EASTERN COMMAND WILL BE ON STANDBY FOR THE
COMING ELECTIONS AND IS PRESENTLY UPDATING CONTINGENCY
PLANS IN THE EVENT THAT ARMY IS CALLED INTO ACTION TO
ASSIST POLICE AUTHORITIES SHOULD "EXPECTED VIOLENCE" GET
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 02443 171836Z

OUT OF HAND. SOURCE SAID THAT IT WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO
KNOW WHETHER THE ARMY WOULD BE NEEDED BUT PLANS WERE
ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR ARMY OFFICERS AND ENLISTED
MEN TO PATROL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES IN SENSITIVE AREAS OF
THE NORTHEAST WHERE "TERRORISTS MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE."
AS FOR BIG CITIES LIKE CALCUTTA, SOURCE DOUBTED THAT THE
ARMY WOULD BE NEEDED BECAUSE POLICE AUTHORITIES WERE

QUITE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY DIFFICULTIES; THIS, HE SAID,
MIGHT NOT BE TRUE IN THE RURAL AREAS.

3. SOURCE SAID THE ARMY IS NOT RPT NOT HAPPY WITH MRS.
GANDHI, SANJAY AND THE EMERGENCY. ONE RUMOR WAS THAT
ARMY OFFICERS, LIKE CIVILIANS ARE BEING EFFECTED BY
THE RISE IN PRICES. MORE IMPORTANT, THERE IS A FEELING
IN THE THE ARMY THAT ONLY THOSE WHO WERE LOYAL TO MRS.
GANDHI ARE BEING PROTECTED AND THAT PROMOTIONS WERE NO
LONGER ON MERIT ALONE. SOURCE SAID MRS. GANDHI IS AWARE
OF THIS DISSATISFACTION. THIS IS THE REASON THAT THE CHIEF
OF STAFF ANNOUNCED THAT OFFICERS AND MEN WOULD BE
ALLOWED TO SERVE ADDITIONAL YEAR ON ACTIVE DUTY.

4. SOURCE SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY CONVERSATIONS IN THE
MESS ABOUT THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION. WHILE THE
CONVERSATIONS WERE DISCREET, SOURCE THOUGHT THE ARMY
WOULD NOT BE UNHAPPY TO SEE MRS. GANDHI AND SANJAY LOSE
THE COMING ELECTION. JAGJIVAN RAM WAS REMEMBERED IN THE
ARMY AS BEING A GOOD MINISTER OF DEFENSE WHO WAS "CLEAR
HEADED" AND MADE GOOD DECISIONS; HE IMPLIED THAT MINIS-
TER OF DEFENSE LAL DID NOT MAKE GOOD DECISIONS AND WAS
NOT RESPECTED BY THE ARMY. SOURCE ADDED THAT WHILE ARMY
OFFICERS NATURALLY FOLLOW POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS HE
HOPED THAT THE ARMY WOULD REMAIN APOLITICAL AND NOT EVER
BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICS, SINCE THAT WOULD DESTROY
IT AS A FIGHTING FORCE.

5. LETTER TO CHARGE WITH BACKGROUND ON SOURCE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 02443 171836Z

CONVERSATION FOLLOWS. SIHCED KORN
UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONAL OPINION, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE02443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770088-1247
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770232/aaaabccj.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54a017c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3296429
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS BY INDIAN ARMY OFFICER ON ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54a017c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009